



# HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH

## ADVENT 2021 NEWSLETTER

· A ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH · THE DOMINICAN PRESENCE IN LEICESTER SINCE 1247 ·

### FR ISIDORE'S LAST REFLECTION

#### ADVENT – CHRISTMAS: 'COME, LORD JESUS, COME'

The holy season of Advent is meant to shake us out of our self-sufficiency. We can so easily push God into the background. We do not allow Him to 'intrude' into our daily lives, into the way we think and act. When the psalmist condemns the fool for saying **'there is no God'** he is not accusing him of denying the very existence of God. No, the fool's folly is to think he can manage his life very well without God. But if God were ever to cease sustaining our very existence we would collapse into nothingness. God is with us, in all that we are and do -except for our sinning. During Advent we focus on several special ways in which God comes into our lives and with His help we try to make Him welcome.

Advent reminds us that God chose the Jewish people and made a covenant of love with them. He gave them laws to protect their relationship with Him and with each other. Like a good shepherd, He was always with them, guiding and protecting them. His spokesmen were the prophets. They kept God's people on the right path and prophesied that God would come into their midst as the saviour-messiah of the world. That Messiah, of course, is Jesus Christ, whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas. During Advent we prepare ourselves to make Him welcome. It is amazing that God wants to share our human life because He loves us. Advent reminds us, too, of the different ways that we meet Jesus in our daily lives – through prayer, Sacraments and in each other. In different ways, Jesus knocks at our door, hoping we will open up to Him, for example, in helping poor people. The Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy prepare us for the most decisive moment when Jesus comes to us in our lives – the moment of death. If we have welcomed Him during our earthly lives, He will welcome us into eternal life.

Death is a taboo subject. We don't want to think about it, especially when we are young and full of life but none of us can avoid it. I know I could die at any moment but that doesn't frighten me. Why? Our faith gives us hope in a far better life beyond the grave. Then we will share the life and happiness of God Himself. We should look forward to that; we should long for that. None of us is fit to enter the presence of the All-Holy God, we are all sinners. But we do not trust in what we deserve but in His infinite love and mercy. My faith is sustained by the words of St John's gospel **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life...."** and by the words of St. Paul's **"I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."** His sacrificial love and mercy for each of us is the only hope I need. That gives me the confidence to pray each day and night, **"Come, Lord Jesus, come."** Now I'm impatient for Jesus to welcome me into His Kingdom at the hour of my death.

Jesus will come in glory at the end of time to wipe away all evil – the completion of God's plan of Salvation. We should all long for that 'Day of the Lord,' as we join the first Christians in praying, **"Come, Lord Jesus, come!"**

– *the Late Fr Isidore Robert Clarke O.P. (Written 2 weeks before his death)*

Fr Isidore's funeral is at 11am this Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, LE1 6HW. Tel: 0116 255 3856 For more details, visit: [www.holycrossleicester.org](http://www.holycrossleicester.org)**

#### MEMBERS OF THE DOMINICAN COMMUNITY

John-Patrick Kenrick OP *Prior*; Anthony Rattigan OP *Subprior*; Luke Doherty OP *Bursar*; John Farrell OP; Richard Ounsworth OP; Thomas Crean OP. **Sacristan:** Mr Nicholas Hoff; **Office Administrator:** Mr Kelechi Ebirim – [leicester.admin@english.op.org](mailto:leicester.admin@english.op.org); **Music Director & Organist:** Mr Thomas Keogh – [keogh.thomas@hotmail.com](mailto:keogh.thomas@hotmail.com)

**The daily 12.30pm (10.30am Sunday) & 6.10pm Vigil Mass are livestreamed on YouTube @ [HolyCrossTV Leicester](https://www.youtube.com/HolyCrossTVLeicester).**

#### MASS TIMES

LS = Livestreamed

**Sunday:** 8am, 10.30am (LS), 7pm

**Saturday:** 10am, 12.30pm (LS) & 6.10pm (Vigil, LS)

**Tues – Friday:** 12.30 (LS) & 6.10pm

Open **10am – 2pm Tues. to Fri., & 30mins** before evening and weekend Masses  
Closed all day on Mondays

**Confessions:** Saturdays 11am – 12pm

#### ADORATION TIMES

**Sunday:** 6pm – 6.40pm (with Rosary)

**Saturday:** 10.30am – 12.15pm

**Tues – Friday:** 11.45am – 12.15pm

#### ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul, so that I may unite myself wholly to You, now & forever, Amen.

## COVID AND FLU JABS

The Pope is urging us all to get a covid vaccine jab, and it is useful to have a flu jab too to protect others as well as ourselves - so if you still have not had one then do contact your GP. Flu jabs are free for people aged 50 or over.

## SACRAMENTS

**The Wednesday Word (For Children):** <http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

Please contact the office for any of the following:

- **First Holy Communion:** If there is no programme in your child's school, contact the parish office.
- **Infant Baptisms, Marriages, Becoming Catholic:** Please apply to the parish office.
- **Funerals:** These can be held in church.
- **Visiting the Sick:** If you are not 'extremely vulnerable', let us know your name, tel. no. & address.

*The Dominican Fathers continue to offer **pastoral care to the Prison, and to the LRI**, in collaboration with the University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) NHS Trust. **If you or a relative are in hospital, please ask the Nurse to inform the hospital Chaplain. If someone is dying, ask the duty Nurse to call the Catholic chaplain – do not call yourself.***

## UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

**Receiving Communion:** Please place one palm over another. **THEY NEED TO BE FLAT.** A few people are still cupping their hands which makes it difficult to avoid touching them. Those who prefer to receive on the tongue should wait until the end of Communion.

- Please sign the register when you come into the church and Hand sanitizers continue to be used when coming into the church. Continue to keep a safe distance from others.
- Entrance is through the Wellington Street door and exit is through the New Walk door.
- Masks are still worn, including when singing and please do not hold conversations in church.

## PARISH NEWS!

**Students:** The last student Mass of term is this Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Scripture Study Group:** Every Tues at 7.45pm. See more: <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/scripture-study/>  
Last meeting for the year will be on Tues 21 Dec 2021, after which the group will reconvene in February 2022.

**Raffle Tickets:** Do take some booklets to sell to your friends, and please remember to return the stubs and the cash.

**Advent Talks:** On the 4 Wednesdays in Advent Fr John Farrell will give a short Advent talk at the 12.30pm mass.

## FRS FABIAN & ISIDORE MEMORIAL APPEAL

Fr Fabian and Fr Isidore were very keen on the refurbishment of the parish centre and were involved in the planning from the onset. Fr Isidore always asked about the progress made when we visited. In their memory, we are appealing for the final £7,000 needed to pay for audio-visual equipment in the Frassati Centre. So far, we have spent roughly £425,000 including grants and donations. A plaque will be installed in the hall in their memory.

You can donate on the card machine or online by donating towards the Frassati Centre. Alternatively, cheques can be made to **Holy Cross Parish** and sent to: **The Bursar, Holy Cross Priory, 45 Wellington Street, Leicester LE1 6HW**

For Mass intentions, sanctuary lamps sponsorship, donations to the Holy Cross 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign and regular giving by standing order, please visit <https://www.holycrossleicester.org/donate/>

## THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY (UCW)

UCW announces the launch of a new online newspaper with the full support of Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order by going to [www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk](http://www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk) or call Michelle on 0743661 7650. **Special offer:** Only £20 for 3 months.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Fri. 24<sup>th</sup> Dec (Christmas Eve):** 12.30 Mass as usual; Christmas Vigil Mass at 6.10pm & Midnight Mass at 10pm.

**Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> Dec (Christmas Day):** 8am, 10.30am, 12.30pm (an extra Mass), & 9am at Woodhouse. **No evening Mass.**

**Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> Dec (Feast of the Holy Family):** **No Vigil Mass.** Sunday Mass: 8am, 10.30, 7pm, & 9am at Woodhouse.

**Note: No confessions on Christmas day. You do not need to book a seat for Christmas MASSES.** There will be only one Mass at 12.30 midday each day from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. till Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2021.

## "HAVE YOUR SAY: SYNOD 2021/2023"

Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth (LACY) will be hosting an afternoon of "Games, Fun and Faith" exploring the Synod at **St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Leicester, LE4 2BD** on **Sunday 9th January 2022, 2pm – 5pm**